

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 02138 211625Z
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 L-03 JUSE-00 SCA-01 FBIE-00
EB-08 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /031 W
-----211906Z 025777 /46
R 211528Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9648
INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 2138

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJECT: INFORMATION RE POSSIBLE FRAUD

REF: LA PAZ 2016

1. INFORMATION CONTAINED REFERENCED TELEGRAM APPRECIATED BY
LEGATT.

2. FOR YOUR INFORMATION, JORGE ESPANA SMITH, WHILE ASSIGNED TO
THE BOLIVIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN 1958, UTILIZED A
FICTITIOUS BILL OF LADING INDICATING THE PURCHASE IN THE
UNITED STATES AND THE SHIPMENT TO SOUTH AMERICA OF 15 USED
SCHOOL BUSES THROUGH WHICH HE FRAUDULENTLY OBTAINED \$28,000
FROM A U.S. COMPANY. A SEVEN-COUNT INDICTMENT WAS RETURNED
BY A FEDERAL GRAND JURY IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
CHARGING ESPANA WITH VIOLATIONS OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 121,
2314, 2 AND 1341, U.S. CODE. A WARRANT FOR ESPANA'S ARREST
WAS ISSUED ON 1/24/63. SUBSEQUENT TO HIS ASSIGNMENT TO THE
BOLIVIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ESPANA HELD A DIPLOMATIC
ASSIGNMENT IN JAPAN. HOWEVER, HE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY DISMISSED FROM
THE BOLIVIAN FOREIGN SERVICE AND ACCORDINGLY, CANNOT CLAIM
DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY. THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND THE DEPARTMENT
OF STATE INDICATED THAT ESPANA WILL BE ARRESTED, SHOULD HE
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RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES.

3. AFTER LEAVING JAPAN, ESPANA RESIDED IN BUENOS AIRES
AND CARACAS. INVESTIGATION ESTABLISHED THAT ESPANA DEPARTED
CARACAS DURING 1972 AND RETURNED TO BOLIVIA WITH HIS FAMILY.
ESPANA IS STILL A FUGITIVE BEING SOUGHT BY THE FBI.

4. IN JUNE, 1976, THE BOLIVIAN NATIONAL POLICE WERE REQUESTED TO VERIFY ESPANA'S PRESENCE IN BOLVIA. BY COMMUNICATION DATED 8/8/76, THE BOLVIAN NATIONAL POLICE ADVISED THAT ESPANA COULD NOT BE LOCATED IN BOLVIA AND THAT INVESTIGATION TO ASCERTAIN HIS WHEREABOUT WAS CONTINUING. THE BOLIVIAN NATIONAL POLICE'S INABILITY TO LOCATE ESPANA WOULD APPEAR TO BE HIGHLY UNUSUAL BASED ON INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REFTEL INDICATING THAT UNTIL JANUARY, 1977, ESPANA WAS THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE BOLIVIAN MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR. IT APPEARS PROBABLE THAT THE BOLVIAN NATIONAL POLICE WAS PROTECTING ESPANA THROUGH THEIR ASSERTION THE HE COULD NOT BE LOCATED IN BOLVIA.

5. COMPLETE INFORMATION CONCERNING ESPANA WAS PROVIDED TO THE EMBASSY, LA PAZ IN A MEMORANDUM FROM THE LEGAL ATTACHE DATED 6/3/76 WHICH ATTACHED A SELF EXPLANATORY FBI MEMORANDUM DATED 4/26/76.

HILL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FRAUDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BUENOS02138
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Document Unique ID: 00
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770096-0789
Format: TEL
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770340/aaaabirc.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: INFORMATION RE POSSIBLE FRAUD
TAGS: ASEC, CGEN, BL, US, (ESPANA SMITH, JORGE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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